

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2670

FOR GENERAL HAIG FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PO

SUBJ: GENERAL FABIAO AT SHAPEX

REF: MAY 13 DATT-COL HOOVER TELECON

1. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT GEN. CARLOS FABIAO, PORTUGUESE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF HAS LEFT TO ATTEND SHAPEX. THIS PRESENTS THE US AND THE ALLIES AN UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH AND INFLUENCE AN OFFICER WITH A VITAL ROLE ON THE PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SCENE AND THE FUTURE OF PORTUGAL IN NATO.

2. THE ARMY IN PORTUGAL IS THE ULTIMATE POWER CENTER AND IN A POLITICAL SHOWDOWN WILL BE THE DECIDING FORCE. HOW FABIAO SHAPES THE ARMY AS IT IS RESTRUCTURED FOLLOWING THE END OF PORTUGAL'S AFRICA INVOLVEMENT WILL GREATLY INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO NATO.

3. ALTHOUGH IMPRESSIVE IN MILITARY BEARING, GEN. FABIAO IS YOUNG (35), SHY, AND UNSOPHISTICATED. HE SPEAKS SOME FRENCH BUT NO ENGLISH, HOLDS THE PERMANENT RANK OF MAJOR; AND HAS NOT REACTED WELL IN THE PAST WHEN EXPOSED TO OFFICERS WHO,
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BUT FOR THE 1974 COUP, WOULD GREATLY OUTRANK HIM.

4. ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO FACILITATE A USEFUL INTERCHANGE
BETWEEN GENERAL FABIAO AND THE SHAPEX PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE
APPRECIATED.
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